



## Segal AmeriCorps Education Award Matching Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### What is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps engages more than 80,000 young adults in service each year. AmeriCorps members meet pressing community needs and mobilize millions of volunteers, while gaining valuable professional, educational, and life skills.

AmeriCorps consists of three programs:

- AmeriCorps State and National - Members serve with national and local nonprofit and community groups,
- AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) – Members serve full-time fighting poverty; and
- AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) – Members serve on a team and complete projects in urban and rural development, natural and other disasters, environmental stewardship, energy conservation and infrastructure improvement
  - FEMA Corps – a separate service track under AmeriCorps NCCC that works with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to support disaster preparedness and recovery.

### What is the Corporation for National and Community Service?

AmeriCorps is administered through the federal agency, Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). CNCS engages more than five million Americans in service through Senior Corps and AmeriCorps.

### What is the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award?

In exchange for successfully completing a term of service, members earn a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award that can be used to pay for school or to pay back qualified student loans.

### What is the current amount of the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award?

The amount of the award is tied to the maximum amount of the U.S. Department of Education's Pell Grant, currently approximately \$6,000.

### What is the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award Matching Program?

The Segal AmeriCorps Education Award Matching Program is an opportunity for Title IV institutions to recruit AmeriCorps alumni by offering cost of attendance benefits.

### What institutions are currently participating?

[Here](#) is a current list of participating institutions

### What defines a *qualified institutions*?

Qualified institutions include Title IV institutions listed on the website of Federal Student Aid, an office within the U.S. Department of Education. A Title IV institution has an agreement with the U.S. Department of Education that makes

students eligible for at least one of the federally backed forms of financial assistance (such as Pell Grants, Perkins Loans, Stafford Loans, National Direct Loans, and Federal Consolidated Loans).

Education awards may also be used for programs approved by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. As of October 1, 2009, the Education Award may be used for expenses and fees of educational institutions and programs approved under the G.I. Bill.

### **Is the Matching Program restricted to colleges and universities?**

No. We welcome vocational schools, international programs, and other continuing education options, so long as they meet the criteria set forth above for “qualified institutions.”

### **Why should institutions offer benefits to AmeriCorps alumni?**

AmeriCorps alumni have valuable traits and diverse skills. They are committed to civic engagement, equipped to problem solve, and stand out as leaders.

By offering benefits to AmeriCorps alumni, institutions can:

- Attract highly-motivated, engaged students who become campus leaders
- Demonstrate their commitment to civic engagement
- Increase rankings, especially in the areas of student civic engagement and volunteerism
- Increase enrollment of community college and transfer students
- Recruit graduate students into under-enrolled programs

### **What is the minimum requirement to participate in the Matching Program?**

Institutions who participate in the Matching Program agree to provide a minimum of one \$1,000 match, scholarship or other benefit to at least one AmeriCorps alumnus each year.

### **Can the institution provide benefits that equal the value of \$1,000?**

Yes. The benefit offered does not have to be a direct match and can include “cost of attendance” expenses, to include contributions “in-kind”. Examples include:

- Tuition and fees payable to the institution
- Books and supplies
- Room and board
- Personal costs, transportation

### **How can my institution participate?**

- Full, direct match of the Education Award
- Scholarship match- full or partial match of the Education Award or competition with a certain allotment set aside for AmeriCorps alumni each year
- Academic incentive- general academic credit granted for each year of service, generally 3-9 credit hours.
- Targeted academic credit- for subject specific programs, such as an education focused graduate school offering credit to AmeriCorps alumni who served with programs that work in education.
- Preferential acceptance into academic internships
- Miscellaneous incentive:
  - Waived application fee
  - Preferential application consideration
  - Housing or board assistance
  - Preferential selection for work study

### **How can my institution sign up for the Matching Program?**

Please complete the [Commitment Form](#) and return it to EdAwardMatch@cns.gov.